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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106770

11
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES
APPROVED BY EA/K:DODONOHUE
EA/P:WMAGRUDER
---------- 058886
R 072216Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 106770

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ON KOREA

1. IN MAY 6 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT FORD MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AS PART OF ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. QUOTE...IT IS MY AIM TO TIE MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER SOUTH KOREA WITH THE UNITED STATES, TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN, TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH INDONESIA, WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH OTHER PACIFIC NATIONS. THESE ARE THE KIND OF, I BELIEVE, FORWARD MOVEMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. UNQUOTE.

2. ASKED WHETHER U.S. SHOULD WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM ROK, THE SECRETARY REPLIED AS FOLLOWS IN MAY 6 NBC-TV TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW. QUOTE...SOUTH KOREA HAS NOT ASKED US TO. IN SOUTH KOREA THERE CAN BE NO AMBIGUITY ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE A DEFENSE TREATY RATIFIED BY THE CONGRESS. IF WE ABANDON THIS TREATY, IT WOULD HAVE DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES IN JAPAN AND ALL OVER ASIA BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS OUR FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA AND OUR FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OUR WHOLE POST-WAR FOREIGN POLICY. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER
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